

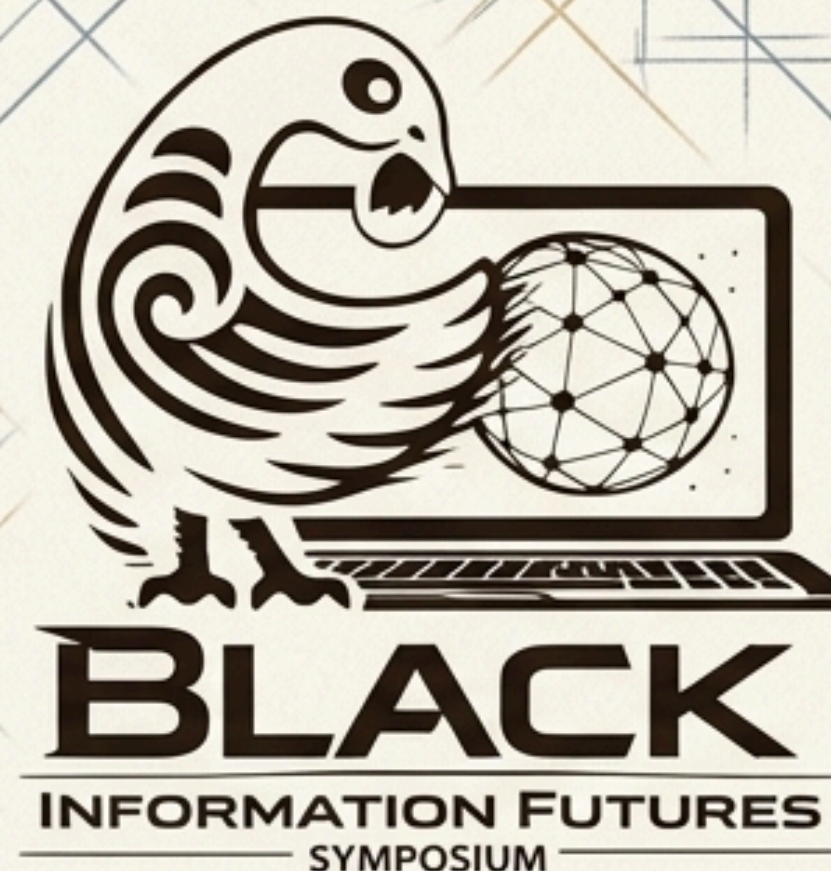
Inquiry, Infrastructure, and Intellectual Confidence

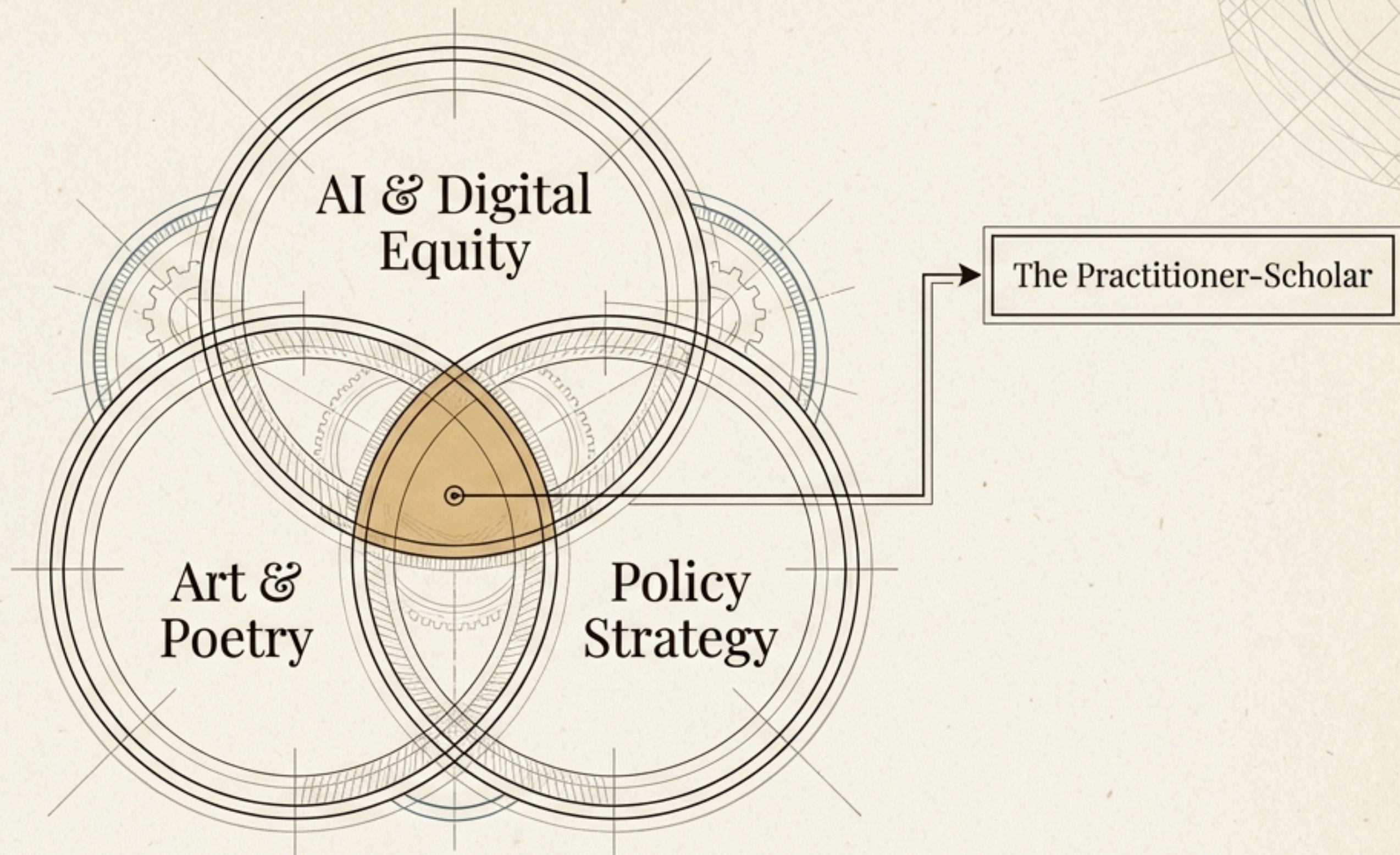
Black Information Futures Symposium:
An Autoethnographic Field Series (Part I)

Author: Kyla Williams Tate

Date: March 2, 2026

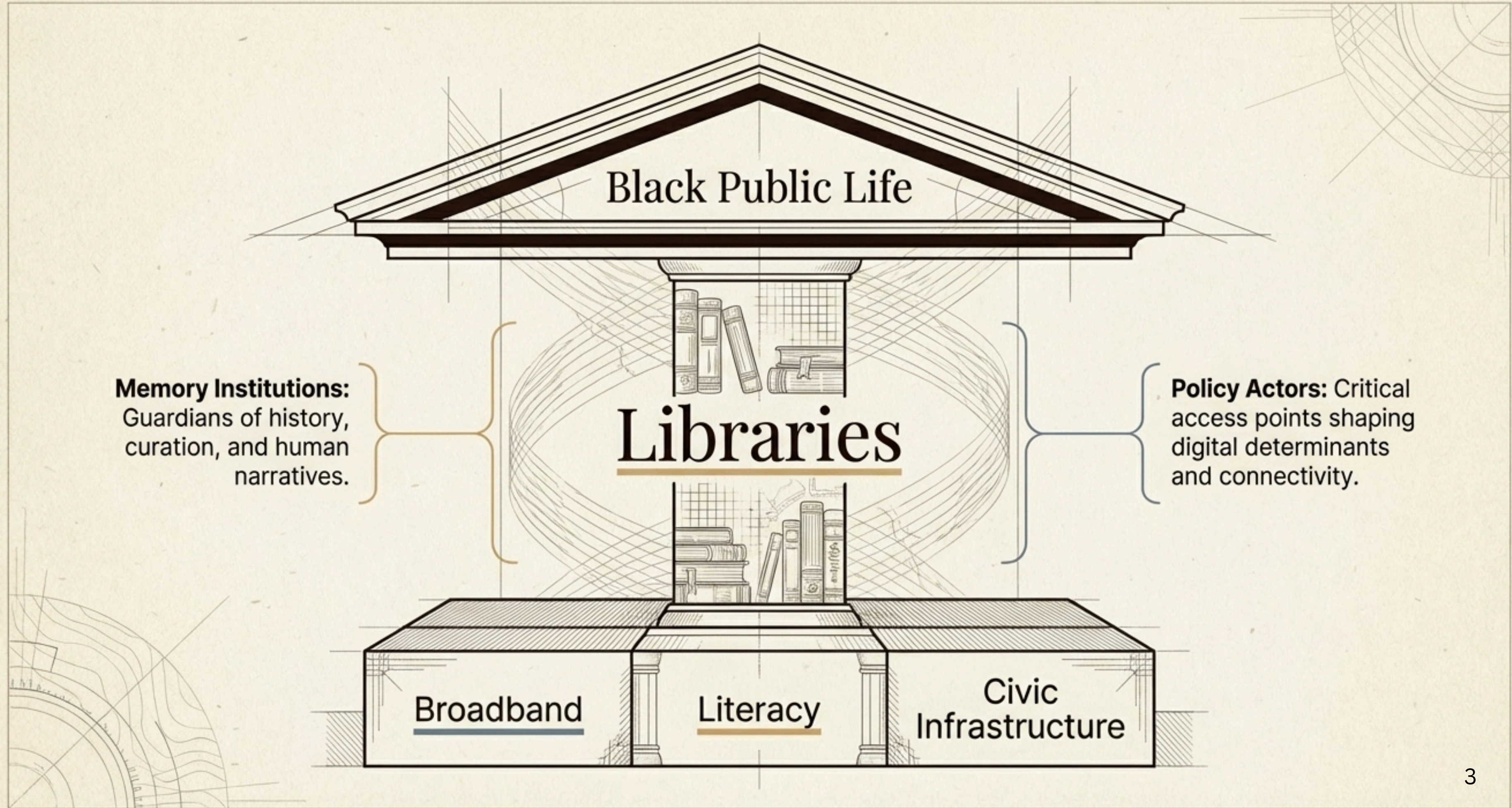
[Originally appeared March 2, 2026 on LinkedIn-Read Full Article Here](#)





Independent Researcher. Narrative Preservationist.

The archives and stories are already here. The language is simply catching up.



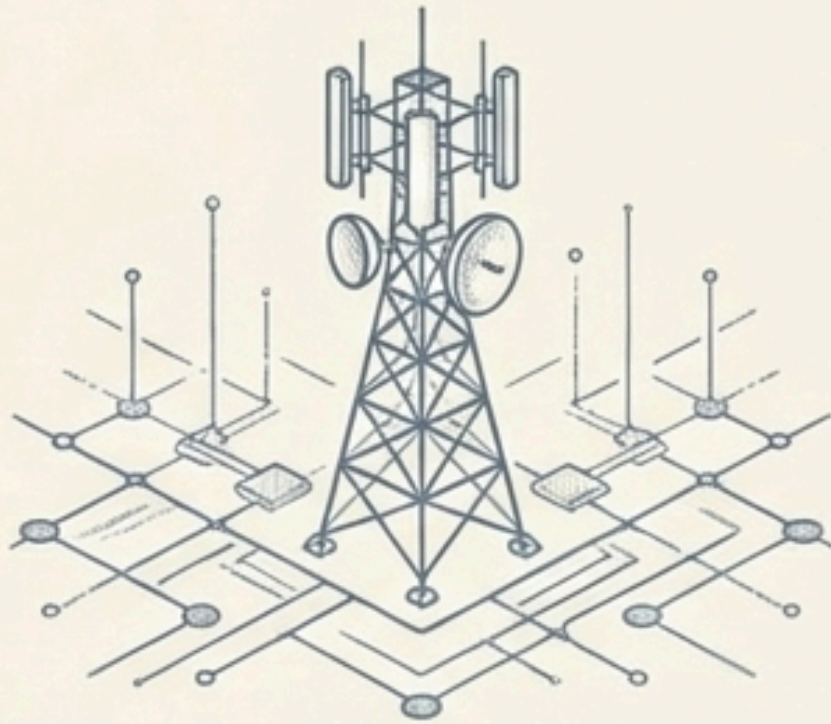
The Spark of Inquiry

1	Context:	Preparing an episode for the Digital Determinants podcast (Benton Institute for Broadband and Society Fellowship).
2	Action:	Reaching out to Tracie D. Hall, rooted in genuine regard for her public and cultural leadership.
3	The Need:	Seeking specific, grounded data on Black librarians in Chicago.

July 2024

The AnchorNets Reality (October 2025)

Hard Infrastructure

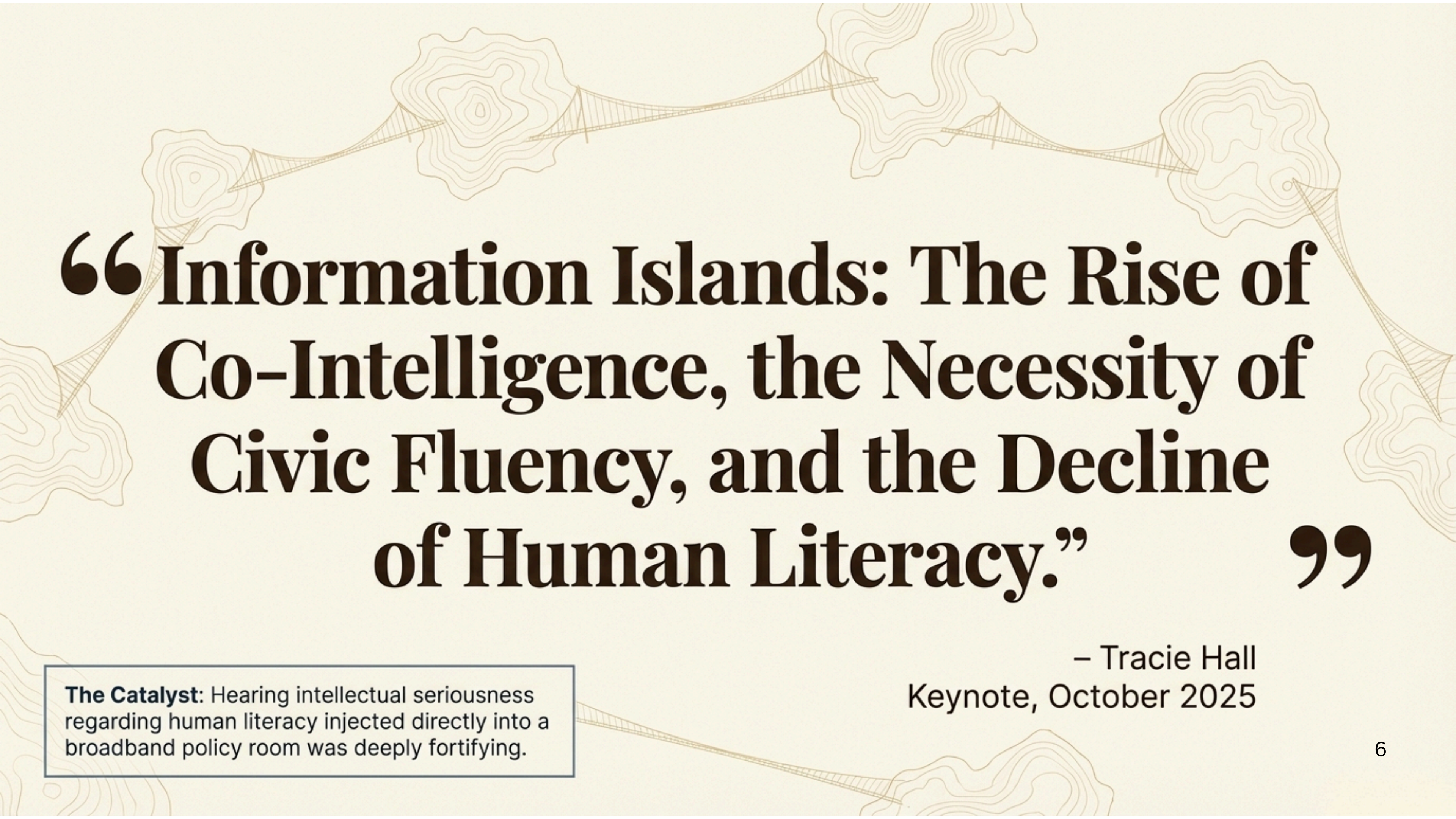


- The SHLB annual conference.
- A space shaped by industry and policymakers.
- Focus: Decisions on connectivity, access, and public institutions.

Humanistic Orientation



- The internal driver.
- A deep love for curation, archiving, and poetry.
- Focus: Memory work and human narratives.

A background illustration featuring a topographic map with contour lines. A suspension bridge with two towers and cables spans across the map, connecting several islands or landmasses. The drawing is in a light brown or tan color.

“Information Islands: The Rise of Co-Intelligence, the Necessity of Civic Fluency, and the Decline of Human Literacy.” ”

– Tracie Hall

Keynote, October 2025

The Catalyst: Hearing intellectual seriousness regarding human literacy injected directly into a broadband policy room was deeply fortifying.



November 10

Inaugural Black Information Futures Symposium announced.

November 17

Proposal submitted.

December 18

Notification of acceptance received.

December 25

Seattle accommodations booked. A present to myself.

Poetry as Method for Black Information Futures



Verse

The rhythm and structural container for cultural memory.



Voice

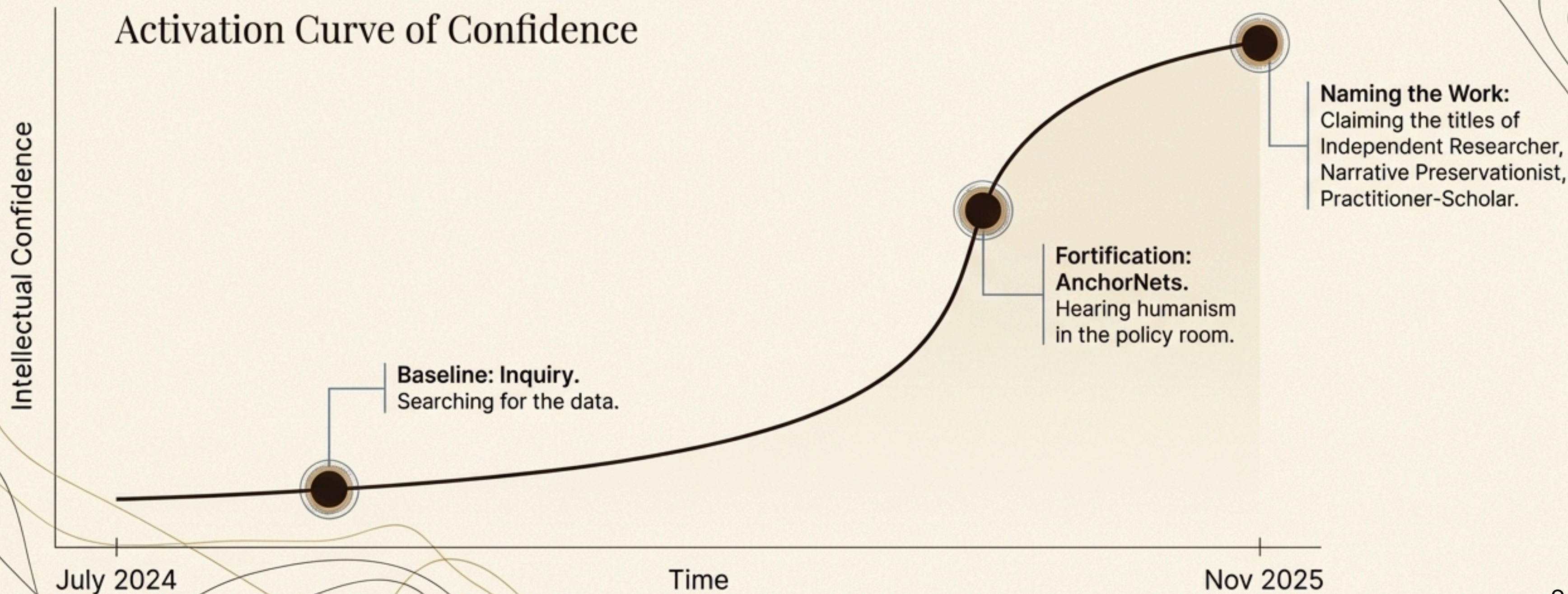
The human literacy and civic fluency found within the data.




Virtual Archives

The technological infrastructure preserving the narrative.

“Between July 2024 and November 2025,
what shifted most was my confidence.”





The language
finally caught
up to the
archives.

Looking Ahead to Part II

- Navigating the proposal process.
- Confronting 'presentation block'.
- The dream that finally allowed the talk to take shape.